



# LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



Oct-1-2021 | Issue 407

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Nature's Way Resources owner John Ferguson, "The Lazy Gardener" Brenda Beust Smith and Pablo Hernandez welcome your feedback and are so grateful to the many horticulturists who contribute their expertise

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## LAWN HERBS & DE-LAWN CHANGES & INCENTIVES

*"Her lawn looks like a meadow, / And if she mows the place  
She leaves the clover standing / And the Queen Anne's Lace"*

- - Edna St. Vincent Millay. (1892–1950) American lyrical poet/playwright

We lazy gardeners picked up two great new words in recent weeks: "delawn" and "lawn herbs":

**LAWN HERBS** Did you catch that clever play on words in John's [Sept. 3 \(#403\) column](#)? Worth repeating: ***In some states what we call "lawn weeds" ecology-concerned folks are now labeling "lawn herbs."***

Interesting alternative view for those of us who are coping with big water-guzzling, pollinator-unfriendly lawns for legal, financial, personal preferences or simply health/energy reasons.

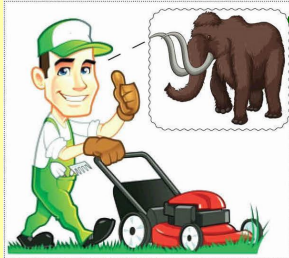
But a change of perspective — looking at "lawn weeds" as "lawn herbs" — might make alternatives more palatable.

Truth is, many of our weeds ARE attractive to the pollinators we're trying to attract to our gardens. Lawn grasses seldom are. They might be, if allowed to produce seed. Some, like dandelions, will even bloom on 1" stalks. But that defeats the highly-manicured lawn's *raison d'être*!



I love quoting two longtime friends:

- Former Chronicle section editor **BEVERLY HARRIS** who always maintained, "*a mowed weed looks just like mowed grass.*" And . . .



- Longtime friend **DAN SNYDER** of NitroPhos Fertilizers, who frequently said pristine lawns today are to men what mammoths were in prehistoric times -- symbolic of macho masculinity.

Truth is, lawns aren't going away anytime soon, nor do probably the majority of folks want them to.

But lawns are steadily becoming more targeted, especially now that a growing number of homeowners are reported online to being paid to "de-lawn":

- Minnesota is said to have allocated nearly a \$1 million in incentives to transform lawns into bee-friendly wildflowers, clover and native grasses.
- Grass front yards are banned at new developments in Las Vegas, where even the Strip's grass medians have been replaced with synthetic turf.
- Assigned alternate day lawn waterings are common now in Western states and many Texas cities.
- In Austin, current regulations require at least 50% of project's total required landscaped area must undisturbed natural area(s) or undisturbed existing trees with no potable (using water supply) irrigation. Watering lawn areas is not allowed before sunset with \$400+ fines for running sprinklers in daylight.
- Lawn watering penalties are being considered by North Carolina, where one option is a split water meter, one for lawn irrigations, one for household use -- with different base charges and alternate days for allowed landscape watering.



The term "lawn herbs" is still so new, I couldn't find much written yet, so not sure if they're referring to plants great for pollinators, or herbs we humans could actually harvest. But I'd bet money that in coming years, this is going to be a term we'll see a lot more often.

Most of us probably can't even identify the weeds/herbs we already have in abundance in our own lawns!

Fortunately Texas A&M AgriLife has in "[Turfgrass Weeds.](#)" *Pictured: Arrowleaf Clover (Trifolium vesiculosum Savi) — white to pink blooms attract bees.*

\* \* \*

At our pre-Harvey home of 50+ years, my Lazy Gardener Laboratory (aka gardens) borders gradually moved outward to significantly reduce lawn area. Mowing-hating husband was bothered not at all. Had I "announced" my



aim, he'd have probably pitched a deeply imbedded genetic macho fit. Hoping to gradually do same with new yard.

\* \* \*



### **OCTOBER IS BONANZA PLANT SHOPPING MONTH . . .**

for anyone hoping to add new garden plants, especially natives. Available at the Houston Arboretum Oct. 29-30 sale, eg, will be, l to r above, Swamp Sunflower, Scarlet Sage, and Goldenrod, among other landscape-friendly natives. Don't cringe at goldenrod! It does NOT cause allergies. The real culprit for this reaction is ragweed which, in the wild, is usually found growing in stands of goldenrod. (Check [Arboretum website](#) for parking tips).

### **NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS/HOUSTON CHAPTER'S**

**WILDSCAPES 2021** is back and although it's already started, it is spread out over 4 evenings with an online plant & book sale afterwards. Online purchasing for registrants on October 10. Pickup will be on Saturday October 16, at a central location. [Details](#). The Native Plant Society of Texas is an incredible group, so well worth joining if you're interested in, or looking for more, landscape-friendly natives. We have several very active area chapters. [Find a chapter close to you.](#)

Also coming in October are . . .

- **SAT., OCT. 9: FORT BEND COUNTY FALL VEGGIE-HERB PLANT SALE**, 9am-noon (or sell-out), 1402 Band Rd. [fbmg.org/events/annual-sales/vegetable-herb-sale/](https://fbmg.org/events/annual-sales/vegetable-herb-sale/).
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- **THURS.-SAT., OCT. 14-16: HOUSTON BULB & PLANT MART**, St. John's Church, 2450 River Oaks Blvd. [gchouston.org/bulb-plant-mart-info/](https://gchouston.org/bulb-plant-mart-info/)
- **FRI.-SAT, OCT 15-OCT 16: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE** (Online). Noon Fri. to noon Sat. Browse begins Fri, Oct 8. [store.galvestonmg.org](https://store.galvestonmg.org)
- **SAT., OCT. 16: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER HERB & VEGETABLE PLANT SALE and OPEN GARDENS**, 9am-noon, 9020 Airport Rd., Conroe. Free. [Online purchase](#) pickup Oct.16 at sale site. 936-539-7824; [mcmga.com](https://mcmga.com)
- **SAT., OCT. 16,: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS FALL CUTTING EXCHANGE & ROSE SALE**, 10am, St. Mary's High Hill Catholic Church, Schulenberg. Free. [Texasroserustlers.com](https://Texasroserustlers.com).
- **FRI.-SAT., OCT. 29-30: HOUSTON ARBORETUM & NATURE CENTER FALL PLANT SALE**, 9am-4pm, 120 West Loop North. (Inventory online Oct. 25). [houstonarboretum.org](https://houstonarboretum.org); 713-681-8433

- **SAT., NOV. 6: THE WOODLANDS GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE (at the) WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL**, 10 am, Rob Fleming Park, 6055 Creekside Forest Dr, The Woodlands. [thewoodlandsgardenclub.org](http://thewoodlandsgardenclub.org)
- **SAT. NOV. 13: HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS PLANT SALE AND FOOD DRIVE**. 10am-1pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, 1015 Holman. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org). (MORE ON HFGC'S SALE NEXT WEEK!)

Keep up with your county Master Gardener events at this link:  
[https://\(insert your county name\).agrilife.org/events/2021-10/](https://(insert your county name).agrilife.org/events/2021-10/)  
 (eg: <https://harris.agrilife.org/events/2021-10/>)

\* \* \*

### MORE THAN GREAT PLANTS

can be found at these sales. Experienced gardeners behind the counter know about their offerings. Eg., Texas Rose Rustlers can advise you on which roses made it through Uri's February Arctic blast. TRR's Molly Buentrostro says these shown "had minimal cane damage and bloomed as well post Uri as they did pre-Uri.



### MORE "PLANTING UNDER TREES TIPS" . . . SANDRA EVANS

added to our [Aug. 6, 2021](#) (pdf download) look at challenges of under shade tree plantings. The low-growing yellow-flowered covers (pictured) are

Creeping Daisy (*Wedelia trilobata*), left, and/or Aurea/Yellow Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia procumbens*). Creeping daisy's flowers are bigger and more showy, Sandra says, but Aurea has light golden variegated foliage. Why not try both and see which one likes you best? Note: both spread happily which can be a mixed blessing. Both will be sold at the Nov.13 Houston Federation of Garden Clubs Plant Sale. (See calendar below)

\* \* \*

**Brenda's JT LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER**  
 column is based on her 40+ years as Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener  
 Email: [lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com)

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# Wildlife Gardening for Birds



with Abbie Ince-Hendrickson M.S.

@ Nature's Way Resources

9:00 AM - 10:30AM

on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Join us for a 45-minute talk about attracting birds to your yard, the habitat elements they utilize, and the native plants on which they rely. Bring your binoculars and outdoor shoes for a short bird walk after class.



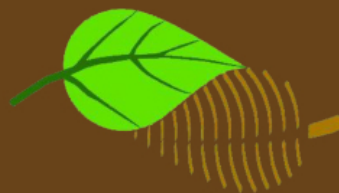
Please remember to bring water and sun protection!

Please RSVP, as class size is limited.

(936)-273-1200 or email us at [nwnursery@gmail.com](mailto:nwnursery@gmail.com)



## John's Corner



### NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 168

We continue with our study of the elements found in animals and humans and how they affect our gardening success. Newsletter articles 166 and 167 have the introductions in them and can be found on the website.

For those that do not have a technical background I am going to cover each

element as they are listed in what is known as the periodic table. It is a method commonly used to organize the elements. Each element is shown using a one or two-letter abbreviation that reflects its name (most are straightforward but a few uses Latin or the names in other languages). Most gardeners will recognize many of the common elements, such as nitrogen (N), calcium (Ca), phosphorous (P), iron (Fe), etc. This abbreviation or shorthand makes it very easy to understand what elements are actually in a mineral, a bag of fertilizer, or other amendment.

To help understand how an atom is organized, think of our solar system. We have the sun at the center and the planets revolve around it at different distances (orbits). For atoms, the protons and neutrons are in the center and the electrons revolve around them similar to the planets around our sun. The distance the planets are from the sun determines if they are hot or cold and icy. Similarly, the distance the electrons are from the center of the atom helps determine many of an element's chemical properties. This is why one form of Chromium (Cr) may be good for you and another form of chromium very bad.

Scientists have discovered 118 total elements of which 94 occur naturally in nature. Of these only 81 elements are considered stable. Seventy-nine of them have been found in animal and human tissue.

In nature, the individual elements (atoms) are rarely found in a pure form like veins of copper or nuggets of gold. They are most often found combined with other elements into what we call minerals. Today scientists have identified over 5,327 distinct minerals from the simple to the complex. We are all familiar with these simple minerals like common table salt that is sodium chloride (NaCl) or limestone, which is calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ).

It is important to remember that minerals are not elements but made up of elements. For example, there are hundreds of minerals that contain the element calcium (Ca) along with other elements, but provide only calcium. For gardeners here are a few examples that you are probably familiar with; limestone (calcium carbonate,  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ), dolomite (calcium magnesium carbonate,  $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ , gypsum (calcium sulfate,  $\text{CaSO}_4$ ), etc.

By using the abbreviations for the elements, it makes it very easy to understand what is in a mineral. For example, limestone or calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) has one atom of calcium (Ca), one atom of carbon (C), and three atoms of oxygen (O) to make one molecule. For a dolomite molecule or mineral has one atom of calcium (Ca), one atom of magnesium (Mg), and two carbonates ( $\text{CO}_3$ ) shown as  $(\text{CO}_3)_2$ .

So, let us begin our journey through the elements.

The simplest atom is hydrogen, which has the chemical symbol (H). It has only one proton (a positive electrically charged sub atomic particle) in its center (nucleus) and one electron (negatively electrically charged) outside the nucleus in orbit around the nucleus. It is assigned the number one (1) also referred to as atomic number one. As we add additional protons and neutrons (electrically neutral sub atomic particles), the atoms become more complex and their chemical and physical properties change. When two protons are present, we now have the element helium (He) and it is atomic number two (2).




Every time we add a proton, the atom changes as they become larger and heavier. If there are three protons then we have Lithium, and so on.

For reference for those interested, I have included the periodic table. For the gardeners that do not have a technical background, elements in each column have very similar chemical properties. This similarity affects how all life forms use them from microbes to plants to animal and humans.

For gardeners and in our health, IF we are short of a required element, an element above or below it in the table may be substituted for the correct one. This substitution changes how the molecule performs.

# The Path to Health for plants and those that grow and eat them.



## OCEAN SOLUTION

MINERALIZER

1 H Hydrogen 1.0079																	2 He Helium 4.0026															
3 Li Lithium 6.941	4 Be Beryllium 9.0122																	5 B Boron 10.811	6 C Carbon 12.0107	7 N Nitrogen 14.0067	8 O Oxygen 15.9994	9 F Fluorine 18.9984	10 Ne Neon 20.1797									
11 Na Sodium 22.9897	12 Mg Magnesium 24.305																	13 Al Aluminum 26.9815	14 Si Silicon 28.0855	15 P Phosphorus 30.9738	16 S Sulfur 32.065	17 Cl Chlorine 35.453	18 Ar Argon 39.948									
19 K Potassium 39.0983	20 Ca Calcium 40.078	21 Sc Scandium 44.9559	22 Ti Titanium 47.867	23 V Vanadium 50.9415	24 Cr Chromium 51.9961	25 Mn Manganese 54.938	26 Fe Iron 55.845	27 Co Cobalt 58.9332	28 Ni Nickel 58.6934	29 Cu Copper 63.546	30 Zn Zinc 65.409	31 Ga Gallium 69.723	32 Ge Germanium 72.64	33 As Arsenic 74.9216	34 Se Selenium 78.96	35 Br Bromine 79.904	36 Kr Krypton 83.798															
37 Rb Rubidium 85.4678	38 Sr Strontium 87.62	39 Y Yttrium 88.9058	40 Zr Zirconium 91.224	41 Nb Niobium 92.9064	42 Mo Molybdenum 95.94	43 Tc Technetium (98)	44 Ru Ruthenium 101.07	45 Rh Rhodium 102.9055	46 Pd Palladium 106.42	47 Ag Silver 107.8682	48 Cd Cadmium 112.411	49 In Indium 114.818	50 Sn Tin 118.71	51 Sb Antimony 121.76	52 Te Tellurium 127.6	53 I Iodine 126.9045	54 Xe Xenon 131.295															
55 Cs Cesium 132.9055	56 Ba Barium 137.327																	72 Hf Hafnium 178.49	73 Ta Tantalum 180.9479	74 W Tungsten 183.84	75 Re Rhenium 186.207	76 Os Osmium 190.23	77 Ir Iridium 192.222	78 Pt Platinum 195.078	79 Au Gold 196.9665	80 Hg Mercury 200.59	81 Tl Thallium 204.3833	82 Pb Lead 207.2	83 Bi Bismuth 208.9804	84 Po Polonium (209)	85 At Astatine (210)	86 Rn Radon (222)
87 Fr Francium (223)	88 Ra Radium (226)																	57 La Lanthanum 138.9055	58 Ce Cerium 140.116	59 Pr Praseodymium 140.9077	60 Nd Neodymium 144.24	61 Pm Promethium (145)	62 Sm Samarium 150.36	63 Eu Europium 151.964	64 Gd Gadolinium 157.25	65 Tb Terbium 158.9253	66 Dy Dysprosium 162.5	67 Ho Holmium 164.9303	68 Er Erbium 167.259	69 Tm Thulium 168.9342	70 Yb Ytterbium 173.04	71 Lu Lutetium 174.967
																		89 Ac Actinium 227.03	90 Th Thorium 232.0381	91 Pa Protactinium 231.0369	92 U Uranium 238.0289											

NPK

Solids

Liquids

Gases

Not natural on Planet Earth,  
Not in OceanSolution.

Now let us begin our journey and look at each of the elements, and discover what they do in soils, microbes, plants, animals, and people.

**1) Hydrogen (H)** - Hydrogen is one of the most common elements in the universe and the simplest. As hydrogen is burned (fusion) in our sun, it gives off tremendous amounts of energy. It has one proton in its nucleus hence the number one on the periodic table. When two hydrogen atoms are combined with one oxygen atom, we have the molecule that we all know as water (H<sub>2</sub>O). We find hydrogen in all living things and in minerals and rocks. Hydrogen is found in igneous rocks like granite and basalt at 1,000 ppm (parts per million) to maybe 5,600 ppm in shales. In marine plants like Kelp, it can reach 41,000 ppm to 55,000 ppm in land plants. Hydrogen is essential for all life.

Hydrogen is a building block in many common substances like hydrocarbons (gasoline and oil) or sugar and amino acids. The human body is more than 60% water and as all gardeners know, plants require water. Hydrogen is one of the three most used elements along with carbon (C) and oxygen (O). These three elements are the building blocks of organic compounds like

carbohydrates, proteins, fats, DNA and RNA as well as cellulose and lignin found in plants.

Plants combine hydrogen and oxygen derived from water, and carbon from carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) absorbed from the atmosphere to form glucose (a simple sugar) or more complex molecules like cellulose and lignin. The energy to do this work comes from the sun via photosynthesis.

When hydrogen is combined with nitrogen, we get ammonia and ammonium. Ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ), is a nitrogen atom connected to three hydrogen atoms and is often used as a common cleaning agent. If we add a 4th hydrogen atom, nitrogen atom we get Ammonium ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ) a plant nutrient.

As we mentioned earlier, scientists like to use an abbreviation of an elements name; they also like to use a "short hand" that makes it *very easy* to describe the element or molecule formed by one or more elements. For ammonia above the short hand version ( $\text{NH}_3$ ), tells us that there is one nitrogen atom connected to three hydrogen atoms. The subscript after the symbol tells us how many atoms of that element there is in that molecule. For ammonium ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ), the short hand tells us that this molecule has four hydrogen atoms connected to the nitrogen atom, the superscript (+) tells us the molecule has a single positive electrical charge. When atoms have an electrical charge, we call them ions (short for ionized). If we have lots of hydrogen ions in the soil then the soil is acidic.

## Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Hydrogen (H)

None directly

Sources: water, leaves and grass, manures, fertilizers, sugars, most things that were once alive.

**2) Helium (He)** - We are most familiar with this element in filling balloons to blimps as it is lighter than air (hydrogen is lighter and cheaper to use, however it is very reactive or flammable) which led to many fires. Helium is one of the "noble gases", which means that it is inert and reacts with nothing. Helium has two protons in its nucleus and two electrons around it.

There are traces of helium in the human body absorbed from the air we breathe. It serves no known biological role in plants or animals. It mainly comes from natural gas deposits from where it becomes trapped after being formed by radioactive decay of other elements deep inside the earth. Helium does not become a liquid until it is very cold ( $4^0\text{ K}$  which is  $-269^0\text{ C}$ ) or minus  $-452^0\text{ F}$ . The major use of Helium today is in physics research on super conductors, which require very cold conditions.

Helium is a very tiny atom, which is so small it can escape through the molecules that compose the walls of balloons (the reason they quickly go flat). As a result, we do not find much Helium in nature like igneous rocks at 0.008 ppm and even less in seawater.

Scientists have found a way to get Helium to react and combine with other elements (Nature Chemistry (2/17)). By using extremely high pressures, they were able to get helium and sodium to combine into a stable molecule called



sodium helide ( $\text{Na}_2\text{He}$ ).

## Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Helium (He)

None directly

Sources: oil and gas deposits, trace amounts trapped in minerals or sediment

**3) Lithium (Li)** - Lithium is a very light and soft metal that will float in water. Lithium is found in igneous rocks at 20-25 ppm (up to 40 ppm in acidic igneous rocks like some granites), shales at 66 ppm, limestone at 5 ppm, and seawater at 0.18 ppm and in soils at 30 ppm. When Lithium is in the ion form ( $\text{Li}^+$ ) it easily moves around in soils. Lithium is found at 5 ppm in marine plants, marine animals at 1 ppm, land plants at 0.1 ppm, and land animals at 0.02 ppm. In undisturbed natural soils, it is found from 13-28 ppm and is highest in heavy loamy soils and the least in sandy soils. In the coastal plains, it ranges from 4-6 ppm.

It is used in hundreds of consumer devices from batteries, plastics, and ceramics to pace makers. Lithium is used to make lithium-ion batteries that are used in almost all modern battery powered devices from cell phones and computers to electric cars. Due to worldwide demand the price of lithium has been steadily increasing. Recent research has discovered that the water used in fracking shale for oil and gas accumulates a large amount of lithium from the shale and in concentrations that may make it a source of lithium in the future.

It was often used to fortify foods, and up till 1950 there was a Bib-label lithiated lemon lime soda now known as 7-Up.

Since 1915 the risk of clinical depression has doubled with each generation and occurs at younger ages. Since Lithium is not considered an essential plant nutrient, it was not replaced as the various crops used it up. Secondly, most artificial fertilizers tend to make the soil very acidic, hence to counter act this acidity, farmers apply large amount of lime (calcium oxide  $\text{CaO}$ ) or limestone (calcium carbonate  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) to their fields. This practice creates excess calcium in our soils which effects/reduces the absorption of lithium by plants if it was even present anymore.

Each generation of farmers have used more and more artificial fertilizers; as the toxic chemicals destroyed the fertility of their fields there is rarely any lithium in our food supply. New studies are revealing the link to the mental problems we see in society today.

Lithium has been used for decades by psychiatrists to treat depression and other mental disorders. Animal studies have shown that a lithium deficiency results in reproductive failure, infertility, reduced growth rate, and multiple behavioral problems. Studies in Texas, California, and Oregon found that normal healthy people had 400 times the lithium in their hair than violent criminals. When Lithium is in the metallic form, it is not biologically available. A deficiency has been linked to several forms of cravings.

In the Special Winter Edition 2016 of Life Extension, it was reported that lithium inhibits an enzyme that cause formation of abnormal tau proteins and neurofibrillary tangles that destroy brain cells and impair memory.

In the Special Winter Edition 2018 of Life Extension that lithium is especially useful in treating bipolar disorder. It also helps protect against cerebral cortex thickening, builds gray matter density, and is associated with hippocampal enlargement protection.

An article in the Journal Neuroscience (January 2018) found that lithium helps with memory enhancement and helps with disordered sleep due to excess alcohol consumption.

A study published in the December 2019 Journal of Alzheimer's Disease has found that micro doses of lithium in the right form helps prevent and reverse Alzheimer's Disease.

Published in the British Journal of Psychiatry (2020), the study collated research from around the world and found that geographical areas with relatively high levels or concentration of lithium in public drinking water had correspondingly lower suicide rates.

Several animal studies have shown that adequate levels of lithium increase their lifespan up to 18% as it has been found to activate a protein that protects cells against damage.

Where lithium is naturally present in the drinking water people live longer and healthier lives. Lithium has been found to help regulate genes related to healthy DNA structure. It is also associated with improvements in mood.

Lithium has been found to be associated with the amino acid histidine and has been shown to help protect brain cells. Lithium is now considered an essential element for humans.

Food sources of lithium are grains, vegetables, mustard, kelp, pistachios, dairy (grass fed), and meat.

### **Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Lithium (Li)**

As the primary rocks (minerals) break down, Lithium is incorporated into clay minerals or is easily absorbed by organic matter.

As a result, it is readily available for plants. The ability to absorb or tolerate Lithium varies between plant families. Members of the *Rosaceae* family often have 0.6 ppm in their tissues. For the *Polygonaceae* they will only have 0.04 ppm. The *Solanaceae* have the most Lithium with levels reaching 1,000 ppm.

Historically, Lithium is not considered to be an essential plant nutrient. However, newer studies have shown that it can affect plant growth and development.

Even though not essential for plants, the above studies show that it is extremely important for animals and humans. If it is not in the soil, then microbes and plants cannot absorb it, and excess calcium (Ca) in the soil inhibits Lithium uptake by plants.



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## LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS

### ***SUBMITTING EVENTS? PLEASE READ!***

- *Only events submitted specifically for LG&FHGN calendar will be used*
- *Put your group's FULL name in email subject.*
- *Very long links will be shortened, but full link activated when clicked*
- *Submit events to: [lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com)*

**SAT., OCT. 2: EASY PATH TO A BEAUTIFUL, HEALTHY LANDSCAPE** by **THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP**, 9am-noon. Free. The Woodlands Emergency Training Center, 16135 IH-45 South, The Woodlands. Register: [thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/environment](http://thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/environment)

**SAT., OCT 2: GROWING BLUEBERRIES** by **ROBERT MARSHALL**, 9-11am. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: [galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/](http://galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/)

**MON., OCT. 4: ONLINE ORDERING ENDS for OCT. 14-16 HOUSTON BULB & PLANT MART.** [store.galvestonmg.org](http://store.galvestonmg.org)

**TUES., OCT 5: GROWING HERBS FOR USE, INSIGHT & DELIGHT** (Zoom) BY **KAREN COTTINGHAM**, 6-7:30 pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/stec\\_event](http://urbanharvest.org/stec_event)

**FRI. OCT. 8: TREE PLANTING & HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL** by **NICHOLAS GRIFFIN**, 10am, Trinity Episcopal Church, [1015 Holman](http://1015Holman.org). Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

**SAT., OCT. 9: FALL FAVORITE VEGETABLES** by **GENE SPELLER**, 9-11. Free. Galveston City Master Gardener event. Pre-register: [galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/](http://galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/)

**SAT., OCT. 9: FORT BEND COUNTY FALL VEGGIE-HERB PLANT SALE**, 9am-noon (or sell-out), 1402 Band Rd. [fbmg.org/events/annual-sales/vegetable-herb-sale/](http://fbmg.org/events/annual-sales/vegetable-herb-sale/).

**SAT., OCT 9.: BOKASHI COMPOSTING: WASTE NOT, WANT NOT** (Zoom) by **ANGELA CHANDLER**, 9:30 – 11:30 am. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/stec\\_event/bokashi-composting-waste-not-want-not/](http://urbanharvest.org/stec_event/bokashi-composting-waste-not-want-not/)

**SAT., OCT 09.: EDIBLE ACADEMY: FALL GARDENING AND NUTRITION WORKSHOP**, 9am- 1pm., Gregory-Lincoln EC., Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/stec\\_event/2021-edible-academy-fall-garden](http://urbanharvest.org/stec_event/2021-edible-academy-fall-garden)

**SUN., OCT 10.: DESIGNING BOUNTIFUL GARDENS SERIES 1/6** (Zoom), 1-

5:30 pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/stec\\_event/designing-bountiful-gardens](https://urbanharvest.org/stec_event/designing-bountiful-gardens)

**MON., OCT. 11: PLANT PROPAGATION** (virtual), 10-11:30am. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners event. Register: [hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops](https://hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops)

**TUES., OCT 12: IN THE GARDEN: COOL WEATHER VEGETABLE GARDENING** by **GABRIEL BORJA**, 6-7:30 pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/stec\\_event/in-the-garden-cool-weather-vegetable-gardening/](https://urbanharvest.org/stec_event/in-the-garden-cool-weather-vegetable-gardening/)

**WED., OCT 13.: TOUGH TEXAS NATIVE PLANTS** (Zoom) by **PAUL WINSKI**, 10-11 am. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/stec\\_event/tough-texas-native-plants/](https://urbanharvest.org/stec_event/tough-texas-native-plants/)

**THURS.-SAT., OCT. 14-16: HOUSTON BULB & PLANT MART**, St. John's Church, 2450 River Oaks Blvd. [gchouston.org/bulb-plant-mart-info/](https://gchouston.org/bulb-plant-mart-info/)

**FRI.-SAT, OCT 15-OCT 16: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE** (Online). Noon Fri. to noon Sat. Browse begins Fri, Oct 8. [store.galvestonmg.org](https://store.galvestonmg.org)

**SAT., OCT. 16: THE LAWN CARE: GREEN WITH ENVY** (virtual) by **THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP**, 9am - noon. Free. Register: [thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/environment](https://thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/environment)

**SAT., OCT. 16: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER HERB & VEGETABLE PLANT SALE and OPEN GARDENS**, 9am-noon, 9020 Airport Rd., Conroe. Free. [Online purchase](https://www.onlinepurchase.com) pickup Oct.16 at sale site. 936-539-7824; [mcmga.com](https://mcmga.com)

**SAT., OCT. 16,: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS FALL CUTTING EXCHANGE & ROSE SALE**, 10am, St. Mary's High Hill Catholic Church, Schulenberg. Free. [Texasroserustlers.com](https://texasroserustlers.com).

**TUES., OCT. 19: PLANT PROPAGATION** (virtual), 11am-noon. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners event. [hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops](https://hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops)

**FRI.-SAT., OCT. 29-30: HOUSTON ARBORETUM & NATURE CENTER FALL PLANT SALE**, 9am-4pm, 120 West Loop North. (Inventory online Oct. 25). [houstonarboretum.org](https://houstonarboretum.org); 713-681-8433

**SAT., OCT 30: KOKEDAMA** by **KAT TONDRE**, 9-11am. \$20. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: [galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/](https://galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/)

**SAT., OCT. 30-NOV. 2: 2021 TEXAS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL**, Mission, TX. [texasbutterflyfestival.com/](https://texasbutterflyfestival.com/)

**SAT., NOV. 6: RAINWATER HARVESTING CLASS** by **THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP**, 9am-noon., The Woodlands Emergency Training Center, 16135 IH-45 South, The Woodlands. Free. Register: [thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/environment](https://thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/environment)



**SAT., NOV. 6: THE WOODLANDS GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE** at the **WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL**, 10 am, Rob Fleming Park, 6055 Creekside Forest Dr, The Woodlands. [thewoodlandsgardenclub.org](http://thewoodlandsgardenclub.org)

**FRI., NOV. 12: GARDENS OF EUROPE** by **VIVIANE TONDEUR**, 10am, Trinity Episcopal Church, [1015 Holman](http://1015Holman). Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

**SAT. NOV. 13: HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS PLANT SALE AND FOOD DRIVE**. 10am-1pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, [1015 Holman](http://1015Holman). [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

*Check contacts for covid-triggered changes and/or masking policies  
Only events submitted specifically for this calendar publication will be used. We don't pick up events from other newsletter or mass emails.  
Links will be fully linked if clicked but word-shortened if too long.*

\* \* \*



For event submission rules, see top of calendar  
If we inspire you to attend any of these,  
please let them know you heard about it in . . .

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## About Us

### BRENDA BEUST SMITH

WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

- \* a national award-winning writer & editor
- \* a nationally-published writer & photographer
- \* a national horticultural speaker
- \* a former Houston Chronicle reporter

When the Chronicle discontinued Brenda's 45-year-old "Lazy Gardener" print column -- started in the early '70s as a fun side-project to reporting, it then ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from reporter into gardening writing -- first as a just-a-fun side Chronicle assignment in the early '70s, led first to an 18-year series of when-to-do-what ***Lazy Gardener Calendars***, then to her ***Lazy Gardener's Guide*** book which morphed into her ***Lazy Gardener's Guide on CD***, which she now emails free upon request.

A Harris County Master Gardener, Brenda has served on the boards of many Greater Houston area horticulture organizations and has hosted local radio and TV shows, most notably a 10+-year "Lazy Gardener" specialty shows on HoustonPBS (Ch. 8) and her call-in "EcoGardening" show on KPFT-FM.

For over three decades, Brenda served as as Production Manager of the Garden Club of America's ***BULLETIN*** magazine. Although still an active broad-based freelance writer, Brenda's main focus now is ***THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER*** with John Ferguson and Pablo Hernandez of Nature's Way Resources.

A native of New Orleans and graduate of St. Agnes Academy and the University of Houston, Brenda lives in Humble, TX, and is married to the retired Aldine High School Coach Bill Smith. They have one son, Blake.

Regarding this newsletter, Brenda is the lead writer, originator of it and the daily inspiration for it. We so appreciate the way she has made gardening such a fun way to celebrate life together for such a long time.

### JOHN FERGUSON

John is a native Houstonian and has over 27 years of business experience. He owns Nature's Way Resources, a composting company that specializes in high quality compost, mulch, and soil mixes. He holds a MS degree in Physics and Geology and is a licensed Soil Scientist in Texas.

John has won many awards in horticulture and environmental issues. He represents the composting industry on the Houston-Galveston Area Council for solid waste. His personal garden has been featured in several horticultural books and "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine. His business has been recognized in the Wall Street Journal for the quality and value of their products. He is a member of the Physics Honor Society and many other professional societies. John is the co-author of the book ***Organic Management for the Professional***.

For this newsletter, John contributes articles regularly and is responsible for publishing it.

### **PABLO HERNANDEZ**

Pablo Hernandez is the special projects coordinator for Nature's Way Resources. His realm of responsibilities include: serving as a webmaster, IT support, technical problem solving/troubleshooting, metrics management and quality control.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.

